[Translation]

Use of Ayurvedic and Homoeopathic Medicines by Allopathic Doctors

18. SHRI RAMACHANDRA VEERAPPA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether allopathic doctors are using many famous ayurvedic and homoeopathic medicines for the treatment of the patient and even the doctors in Government hospitals are prescribing these medicines;

(b) whether the Government have imposed restriction on the use of allopathic medicines by the ayurvedic and homoeopathic doctors;

(c) if so, whether the Government are considering to allow the ayurvedic or homoeopathic doctors to use the allopathic medicines during an emergency; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) No such information is available.

(b) As per the Supreme Court of India judgement dated 10.5.96 in the case of Poonam Verma Vs. Ashiwn Patel and Ors. a person who is registered as a Homoeopathic practitioner can practice homoeopathy only. When the law under which a person was registered as medical prectitioner required him to practice Homoeopathy only, he was under a statutory duty not to enter the field of any others system of medicine without being qualified in that system.

(c) and (d) As per the provisions of section 15 of the Indian Medical Council Act, 1956, a person possessing a recognised medical qualification included in the Schedule to Indian Medical Council Act, 1956 and enrolled in a State Medical Register/Indian Medical Register is eligible to practice allopathy, i.e. modern scientific system of medicine in any State.

Renovation of Hospital Buildings

19. SHRI LALIT ORAON: Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of schemes lying pending with N.D.M.C./M.C.D. for the renovation of buildings of clinics/hospitals being run under Central Government Health Scheme; and

(b) the time by which these schemes are likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU): (a) and (b) The office of the Director General (C.G.H.S.) has reported that the renovation of C.G.H.S. dispensaries etc. is neither done by NDMC nor by MCD. The question of any scheme being pending with these agencies, therefore, does not arise.

[English]

Sub-Standard Drugs

20. SHRI ANANT GUDHE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the spurt in the production and marketing of sub-standard/fake and spurious drugs in the country threatening public health system;

(b) if so, whether threat perception and magnitude of the problem has been assessed by the Expert Committee/Task Force recently;

(c) if so, the details of the threat perceptions evaluated by the experts;

(d) the details of the steps taken by the Government to tackle the menace of sub-standard drugs through strengthening and streamlining of States Food and Drug Administration; and

(e) the agenda of action plan for 1997-98 for effective implementation of Food and Drugs Adulteration Act?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) As reported by State drug licensing authorities during the period 1993-96, 10-12% samples of drugs tested were found to be sub-standard whereas 0.2% samples were found to be of spurious origin.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

(d) and (e) The State Licensing Authorities have been advised, from time to time, to strengthen their enforcement staff and drugs testing facilities to crub the menace of manufacture and sale of sub-standards drugs. However, Under the Public Health Capacity Building project being negotiated with the World Bank, Govt. proposes to augment the drug testing facilities and drug inspectorate staff in the Centre and the States.

[Translation]

Melting of Snow at the South Pole

21. SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA VERMA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the snow at the South Pole is melting into water as stated by the studies conducted by the Indian team in the Antarctica;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the water level in the ocean along the Indian coast has gone up causing danger to the coastal cities; and

(d) if so, the measures taken by the Government in this direction?